commercial purchase of kapas at the prevailing market prices for meeting the requirements of institutional bu yers like National Textile Corpora tion, State Textile Corporations, Coo perative Spinning Mills etc. against firm indents and for fulfilling the export quotas alloted to it by the Government.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra had sought" extension of the Scheme of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton in the State for a period of 10 years w.e.f. 1st July, 1990. Govt, have granted extension to the Scheme for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 1st July, 1990 on the existing terms and con-ditons.

Introduction of a Fresh Bill for placing Handloom Reservation Act under Ninth Schedule

*328. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Bill 1990 which sought to place the handloom reservation law under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution has been lapsed;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a fresh Bill for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The Handloom Reservation Act and the orders issued thereunder are at present stayed under orders of the Court. The case is pending for disposal in the Supreme Court. Government wants to await judgement of the Court before taking a decision regarding inclusion of the Act in the IX Schedule.

Bi-Lingual Computer facility for Indian Mission Abroad

*329, SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will . the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Indian missions abroad have bi-lingual computer pro-cesing facility if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, what is the time-bound programme to provide bi-lingual computing facility and training in Indian missions abroad; and

(c) whether there are adequate computing facilities and technical manpower support to ensure full bilingual computerisation and development of advanced technology and Strategic Information Database to provide the right kind of information to the right kind of agencies in India without loss of time?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL. AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government's policy is to istal computers in Indian Missions and Posts abroad in a phased manner, keeping in view their functional requirements with regard to areas, of work including the need for bi-lingual capabilities. Training is provided on the basis of functional requirements. All Indian missions abroad are equipped to convey requisite information to the Government and other agencies with minimum loss of time. Step$_s$ are constantly being taken to upgrade these facilities.

U.S. help for resolving Kashmir Dispute

*330. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from a South-Asia expert from USA to take the help of USA in resolving the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

US move to expand its presence in the Middle East

*331. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the US move to expand its presence in the Middle East and to expand its rapid deploy ment of forces for swift action if it has to fight a Third World country in global wars; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government are aware of the recent defence cooperation agreements signed between the US and certain Gulf States and the prisence of US forces and equipment in the region to meet contingency situations.

(b) Government's position on presence of foreign troops and foreign military bases remains unchanged. India does not believe in external military presences in any region.

"गरीबी हटाओ" संबंधी विशेषज्ञ पैनल द्वारा की गई सिफारिशें

*332. श्री अजीत जोगी :
श्री छोटूभाई पटेल :

क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या "नियोजित विकास के लिए संस्थागत ढांचे संबंधी विशेषज्ञ पैनल" ने विशेष रूप से गरीबी हटाओ योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के लिए स्वयं सेवी संगठनों तथा गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के विशेषज्ञों के लिए विशिष्ट और अधिक भूमिका की सिफारिश की है ;

(ख) इस पैनल द्वारा अन्य कौन-कौन सी महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिशें की गई हैं ; और

(ग) उपर्युक्त सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) से (ग) योजना आयोग द्वारा गरीबी हटाओ स्कीमों के कार्यान्वयन के विशेष संदर्भ में नियोजित विकास के लिए संस्थागत ढांचे संबंधी किसी विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन नहीं किया गया था । तथापि एकीकृत विकास के लिए नियंत्रित संस्थाओं संबंधी एक कृतिक बल का गठन किया गया था तथा इसकी रिपोर्ट दिसम्बर, 1991 में प्रस्तुत की गई थी । इस रिपोर्ट में विकास कार्यकलापों में स्वयंसेवी एजेंसियों के लिए और अधिकव्यापक भूमिका संबंधी सिफारिशें शामिल हैं । कृतिक बल की सिफारिशों पर विचार किया जा रहा है ।

Textile Mills in Assam

*333. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills in Assam;